



Accountants and Management Consultants

600 Mason Ridge Center Drive
Suite 100
St. Louis, MO 63141
314-514-8881
314-514-8872 Fax

March 19, 2021

Senator Josh Hawley
Senator Roy Blunt
Congresswoman Ann Wagner

I am managing partner of the accounting firm Lopata, Flegel & Company LLP, approximately 15th largest accounting firm in the St. Louis metropolitan area. On behalf of our approximately 30 CPAs (partners and employees), and our well over 1,500 clients, I want to thank the IRS and the federal government for providing the one month delay to the filing of all individual tax returns. Our accounting firm has been overloaded with assisting our clients in surviving the pandemic and navigating PPP loans, EIDL loans, Employee Retention Credits, FRCRA, plus countless other matters that have made CPAs a vital player in helping small businesses survive.

I am aware that many in my profession wanted this delay to be longer and broader. At this point we are satisfied with the announced delay. Having said that, there remains one important change that without it creates an enormous problem. How can 1st quarter 2021 estimates be due prior to the due date of the 2020 tax returns? Estimates for the coming year are always determined at the time the prior year's tax return is completed. **First quarter 2021 estimates need to be delayed to May 17th to align with the tax return.**

The IRS' failure to include estimated payments in its one month delay hurts taxpayers and tax preparers because so much tax return work has to be done to calculate estimated payments for the coming year. Approximately 10 million individual returns include estimated payments. This IRS decision unfortunately creates more bureaucracy and confusion and is out of touch with the stresses faced by taxpayers, tax practitioners and small businesses.

CPAs as a rule are pretty sharp. We can figure our way around this by filing hundreds of unnecessary extensions for the returns that otherwise would not be needed. Extensions create more work for our clients and the IRS, who frankly has been horrible during the pandemic in so many ways; including, not answering phone calls, not opening mail, not cashing checks, sending lien orders on matters that have long been resolved, and the list goes on.

Feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Very truly yours,

LOPATA, FLEGEL & COMPANY LLP

Allan S. Epstein
Managing Partner